Info-Hams Digest   Tue, 9 Feb 93   Volume 93 : Issue 188

Today's Topics:
                          160 Qs needed
                          73s (Not 73)
                        Amplifier Tuning
                     Cheap stereo headphones
                            CT vs NA
                        Help CW practice
                     HF Propagation Beacons
                  How is 20 WPM code test sent?
                       No Code Proposition
                     satellite ground station

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 9 Feb 93 05:20:47 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: 160 Qs needed
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I still need CT, DE, ME, SC, and VT on 160m CW. Anyone out there
in net-land who would like to help me with W.A.S. on 160? thanks
73   Mike   N6MZ   mikemr@microsoft.com

Date: 7 Feb 93 17:33:36 GMT
From: news.cerf.net!netsys!agate!biosci!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!sdd.hp.com!ncr-sd!

ncrcae!ncrhub2!ncrgw2!psinntp!arrl.org@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: 73s (Not 73)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In rec.radio.amateur.misc, swirsky@adobe.com (Robert Swirsky) writes:

>In article <C1y4Ev.6pw@spk.hp.com> dubner@spk.hp.com (Joe Dubner) writes:

>>Have you ever noticed the ingenious excuses that a ham will use
>>when he wants to terminate a QSO.
>
>I used to like to *slowly* turn down the output power. The person on the
>other end will think that the band just died. [This only works for
>non-local HF QSO's!]

This will work some of the time, but you may find that the QRPers have
been right all along -- you don't always need those 1500 watts! The last
fellow who tried that trick with me ended up telling me that his output
power was no longer moving his power meter's needle! He was a bit weaker,
but still Q5 all the way.

On the next go-round, he came back to me so weak I could barely hear
him. I copied MOST of what he said, but told him that he just had to
turn the power back up to at least a few milliwatts. When he came
back, he was much louder, roaring with laughter (on CW). He told me
that on the last round, he had switched 5 watts over to his dummy
load. :-). I think we were equally surprised.

73 from ARRL HQ, Ed -- KA1CV/QRP :-).

Ed Hare, KA1CV   ehare@arrl.org
American Radio Relay League
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111   You will never put the puzzle together
(203) 666-1541 - voice   if you keep putting all the pieces
ARRL Laboratory Supervisor   back in the box.
RFI, xmtr and rcvr testing

Date: 9 Feb 93 05:37:42 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Amplifier Tuning
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I assume you mean that you're tuning the output (plate tuning/loading)
and not tuning the input matching circuit. Don't bother watching the
input VSWR when you tune the output circuit---just follow the tuning
procedure in the manual (or the standard pi-output tuning procedure
if you don't have the manual). When the output circuit is tuned
correctly (plate current, grid current, output power adjusted as
specified in the manual), then take a look at the input VSWR. If it
is too high, then consider tweaking the amp's input matching network.
The input VSWR varies all over the map as you adjust the output circuit,
and you shouldn't bother worrying about it until the plate circuit is
set. Oh, one more thing---use a dummy load so that you have a real 50-ohm
load to tune. Good luck
73   Mike   N6MZ   mikemr@microsoft.com

Date: 8 Feb 93 21:55:42 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Cheap stereo headphones
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

When I was in CA over Christmas I happened to visit a 99c store
(everything less than a dollar) to get some wrapping paper. Whilst
standing in the checkout line I spotted some stereo type headphones for
99c (Pomtrex -- bright yellow). As my cats had eaten my set that I use
portable I decided I couldn't loose so I bought a pair.

The spec on the back of the box is:

Frequency response: 100Hz to 4.8kHz
Unit impedance: 32ohm
Max power 50mW
Cord 4 foot
Plug: 3.5mm stereo

At least they're honest about the frequency response! Almost voice
range. For music use they're hopeless but for voice or CW use their OK.
Their sensitivity is a lot less than the more expensive units but most
of my radios have plenty of drive. They're also a lot more comfortable
than I expected (but not up to Sony standard) and their cheap enough
that I don't worry about how I handle them.

So check out any "ultra" cheap stores -- you don't know what you might find!

Kevin Purcell, N7WIM / G8UDP   X E N O L I T H
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(206) 882-8080 x14710   Seattle, WA 98102
                    (206) 726-8032

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Date: 9 Feb 93 00:37:12 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: CT vs NA
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

A recent comment in the Totem Tablod (the rag of the Western WA DX
Club) asked the following question:

"Both NA and CT do basically the same thing -- they log major contests,
check for dupes, keep track of your rate, print out your results
effortlessly, and with a simple cable will send CW automatically. NA
sells for $40 postpais and CT sells for $69.95 plus $3 shipping. Who
does anyone buy CT?"

Answers on a postcard ... (for the British readers a bit of an in joke)

72/73 Kevin, N7WIM / G8UDP
a-kevinp@microsoft.com

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Date: 8 Feb 93 22:45:44 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!caen!rphroy!link.ph.gmr.com!vbreault@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Help CW practice
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Feb8.135709.9743@hemlock.cray.com> dadams@cray.com (David Adams)
writes:

   I have been practicing CW about 15 min. a day here on my computer terminal.
   I seem to be stuck at 9 wpm. I practice at ~13 wpm. Every time I hit an
   e my brain just looses it. I don't have enough time to listen, write the
   "E" down, and by that time I've missed the next letter. What do I need to
   do?

   --David C. Adams Statistician Cray Research Inc. dadams@cray.com

The technique that worked for *ME* Dave was to scratch down everything
I knew and draw a dash or scribble for everything I didn't know. I may
not have known what the letter was, but I was aware that it was there
when I re-read my copy. You don't really need all the letters in
order to comprehend the meaning. Just look at the variable names
used in old FORTRAN programs for an example. :-) :-)

Another technique was to use a variable speed code generator that

I'd adjust to present me with a challenge that was "just a little"
faster than I could copy. I worked in random 5 character groups and
adjusted the speed for an 80% (4 out of 5) comprehension rate.

Some times I'd be able to copy faster than I did at the previous
practice session. Some times I'd have to slow it down a tad.
The overall rate though was positive. And again, 4 out of 5 is
enough to copy the names of states, antennas, rigs, hobbies...
the stuff that the tests are made of.

I added extra practice time to my day by using drive time. I made
up some practice tapes of random characters and played them while
commuting. I tapped out street signs on my knee. I whistled license
plates. I make a game of it. When I had trouble with some
combination I'd look for that combination on billboards or bumper
stickers and tap them out on my steering wheel.

Oh, by the way... There's a used MM-3 keyer for sale. That's the
kind I use(d) to make my practice tapes.   No comment about whether
or not that particular offering is "a good buy". Just "for your
information".

--
-val-

Val Breault - GM Research - vbreault@gmr.com - N8OEF   \   /|
Instrumentation dept., 30500 Mound Rd., Warren, MI 48090-9055   \   / |
The opinions expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect   \ /__|
those of GMR or those of the General Motors Corporation.   \/ |___

Date: 8 Feb 93 17:04:14 EST
From: titan.ksc.nasa.gov!k4dii.ksc.nasa.gov!user@ames.arpa
Subject: HF Propagation Beacons
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Feb8.155547.10678@cbnewsc.cb.att.com>,
cmd@cbnewsc.cb.att.com (craig.m.dinsmore) wrote:
> I'm looking for a list of frequencies and locations of various propagation
> beacons for HF Ham bands.

Craig-

I think I've seen lists of beacons in both the "Radio Amateur Callbook" and
the ARRL "Repeater Directory".

73, Fred, K4DII

fred-mckenzie@ksc.nasa.gov

Date: 8 Feb 93 13:58:42 PST
From: mvb.saic.com!unogate!news.service.uci.edu!usc!howland.reston.ans.net!
bogus.sura.net!udel!gatech!destroyer!cs.ubc.ca!unixg.ubc.ca!ucla-mic!
MVS.OAC.UCLA.EDU!CSMSCST@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: How is 20 WPM code test sent?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Feb8.195941.25327@cbnewsm.cb.att.com>, on 8 Feb 1993 19:59:41 GMT,
jeffj@cbnewsm.cb.att.com (jeffrey.n.jones) writes:

>
>In article <1993Feb8.182331.29988@VFL.Paramax.COM> rossi@gvlf9-q.gvl.unisys.com
(Pete Rossi) writes:
>>A friend hopes to go for his 20 WPM test in the next few weeks was
>>wondering how the test is sent? Is it straight 20 WPM characters and
>>20 WPM spacing? Or is some kind of Farnsworth method used like they
>>do the 13 WPM tests?
>
>Sent just like the 13wpm test only the character speed is 23wpm and the
>spacing between letters is set at 20 wpm. Also it is just like a typical

Depends entirely on where you take the test -- what VEC group is
giving it. Different VECs generate their code tests in different
ways (with and without Farsnworth at 20 WPM, everybody I know uses
it at the low speeds). In addition, the particular VE team may or
may not use the tapes provided by the VEC. Call you head VE and
ask what his group does if you really want the right answer.

IMHO, Farnsworthing the 20 WPM makes it a whole lot easier for
people to copy - which is good.

   -- 73 de Chris Thomas, AA6SQ (ex-WA6HTJ) (CSMSCST@MVS.OAC.UCLA.EDU)
      GLARG VE

Date: 8 Feb 93 16:34:38 GMT
From: news.cerf.net!netsys!pagesat!olivea!apple!catnip!kc6sss@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: No Code Proposition
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

ObLesson: Read your history first.

swalton@mail.boi.hp.com (Sean_Walton; 85U524; x3821) writes:

[...]

>So, I have a proposal: change the rules to either of the following--

>   1) Require that the No Code License be renewed every few
>   years (much less than the current 10 years) by re-testing

>   2) Make the license itself a "temporary" license which must
>   be upgraded with code within a period of time.

Prior to late September 1967, Novice licences were good for only
one year and were non-renewable.

Prior to 12/75, all licenses not only had to be upgraded every 5 years,
but you also had to certify [subject to random verification] that you
could pass the code requirement for the license class you held.

Extracted from QST, Feb '76, page 58:

Operating Time for Renewal

The Federal Communications Commission has dropped the operating time
and code speed requirements for renewal of an Amateur Radio Service
license. Up to December 24, an applicant had to state that he had
operated two hours in the last three months or five hours in the last
year of the license term, and that he could still copy code at 5, 13 or
20 wpm depending on his class of license. ********"No one has ever
demonstrated that any identifiable relationship exists between the
requirements of Section 97.13(a) and an individual's competence as a
radio ameteur," the Commission declared.********

[emphasis mine]

Please note that the last sentence is almost exactly the same sentence
contained in the document that dropped the code requirement from
the Technician license.

Similarly, the FCC rejected a RM which requested that they drop the
code requirement from the Technician license by quoting from the
IRU regulations requiring the knowledge of Morse Code as a prerequisite
for holding an amateur radio license.

Date: 8 Feb 93 21:20:08 GMT

From: ogicse!uwm.edu!cs.utexas.edu!hellgate.utah.edu!cc.usu.edu!cannon!
scott@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: satellite ground station
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

     The ham club at Utah State Univ. has a grant to set up a satellite
ground station and we're looking for some advice. Although we collectively
have alot of radio experience, none of us has ever set up a satellite shack.
If you have some experience in this area and wouldn't mind answering a
question or two concerning the best ways to spend our money, send me a note.

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End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #188
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